

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

Vol. 120, No. 18

NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST



Grand opening, indeed

The Romulus Athletic Center has been open for several weeks, but an official ribbon cutting took place last week. Mayor Alan R. Lambert, top photo, accepts a certificate of recognition regarding the Romulus Athletic Center from Wayne County Executive Robert A. Ficano and Wayne County Commissioner Edward Boike, Jr. Before he accepted the certificate, Lambert cut the ribbon alongside members of the Romulus City Council and the Tax Increment Financing Authority.

Judge will seek another term

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Auto parts store to open

Advance Auto Parts, a leading automotive aftermarket vehicle parts, batteries, accessories and maintenance items, opened a new location in Romulus today at 35445 Van Born Road.

The store offers customers a wide range of parts and several free services. Employees will install windshield wipers for free, and also install batteries following a complimentary check of the vehicle electrical system and old battery. Customers also can drop off used motor oil and batteries for recycling – ensuring that these materials don't end up in landfills where they could harm the environment.

Company officials said they chose the Romulus because it's convenient to where customers live and shop, as well as the garages where they take their vehicles for repair.

Kevin Wilson is the new store manager and works with nine other employees.

The store is open Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

— News in brief is compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen.

I'm excited to have this opportunity."

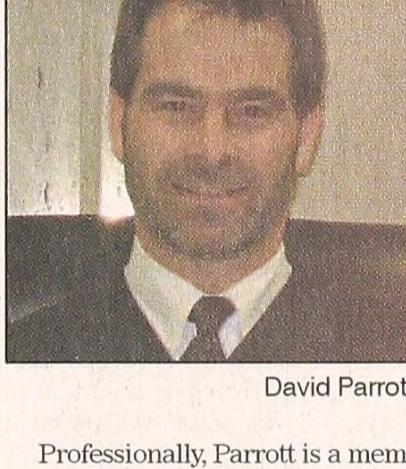
Parrott, who said the court is one of the busiest district courts in the state, is also active in the community. He takes part in the Belleville Rotary Club, the Belleville and Romulus Boys and Girls Club, the Citizens Helping Improve Public Safety, the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Romulus Chamber of Commerce and belongs to the Belleville Moose and Van Buren Eagles clubs. He's also been selected as the Noble Hamrick Member of the Year by the Huron Valley Conservation Association in 2005 and most recently as the Outstanding Volunteer Leader for 2007-2008 by the Belleville Boys and Girls Club.

Parrott was the only candidate to file by the 4 p.m. deadline, according to the Michigan Secretary of State.

Parrott, 48, will seek his second judicial term in the Nov. 4 election. He was first elected in 2002 after former Judge William Sznis retired.

"I believed I've dispensed justice fairly and firmly with compassion and understanding," Parrott said. "I'm looking forward to continuing to serve the community and

professionally, Parrott is a member of the American Judges Association, the American Judicature Society, the American



David Parrott

See Judge, page 4

Helping Hands pantry in need of food

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

An organization known for helping out people in need in Romulus is now in need of help itself.

Helping Hands, an organization that provides food, clothing and outreach for some of the most vulnerable city residents, is asking residents who can donate non-perishable food to fill their pantry.

The cupboards at the Helping Hands center on Huron River Drive

are dangerously low for the number of people in need of assistance, said Harry Crout, a Romulus city councilman and frequent donor.

"Because of the economy, there are more requests, and they could really use help right now," Crout said at a recent city council meeting.

Crout said several situations have forced residents to seek the services of a food bank; the most important of these is that some residents have had difficulty obtaining employment for long periods of

time. Also, disabled or elderly people who are on a fixed income sometimes cannot afford to purchase food.

Shannon Khen, a volunteer at Helping Hands, agrees that there has been an uptick in the number of people needing assistance, but said the need for food never goes away in Romulus.

"There are always people who need food, or clothing," she said.

See Food, page 4

See Race, page 4

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Low turnout
expected
for election

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Turnout for the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education election is expected to be low, with less than 10 percent of the 16,000 registered city voters casting ballots, election officials said.

City Clerk Linda Choate said those numbers are typical for a school board election, especially when there are no other county or city issues on the ballot.

"I would love to see 2,000 votes, but I think it will be more like 1,500," she said. "There are five candidates running and only one incumbent for two available seats, so that may bring more people to the polls."

This year, there will be nine polling locations throughout the city, and polls will open promptly at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

This year, five candidates have filed for two, four-year spots on the school board.

There are five candidates running and only one incumbent for two available seats, so that may bring more people to the polls.

City Clerk Linda Choate

Incumbent Tom Kuderik will face off with four challengers, including former Romulus Department of Public Works Superintendent Carl Brooks; Wick parent volunteer Danielle Funderburg, Romulus Police Ofc. Darran Shelby and Jay Williams.

Betty Lenossi, a 12-year veteran of the school board, is not seeking a fourth term on the board.

The seven members of the Romulus school board serve four-year terms and are elected at-large. They are charged with the responsibility of setting policy for a district with a \$22 million budget, 350 employees and 4,300 students at six facilities.

There are many issues the schools will have to face during the next four years, including hit-or-miss revenue sharing from the state, officials said. The district has had to lay off employees for two years to balance the budget.

Another big change will take place in September, when the district switches from a traditional semester system to trimesters at Romulus High School.

Board members could have to determine whether to follow the lead of other area districts and open all schools to the state Schools of Choice program, which allows districts to enroll students who reside outside of their borders into classes. Several candidates have already said the district should move in that direction so it can compete with charter schools.

See Race, page 4

Help wanted

The Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) sponsored a job fair recently at the western campus in Belleville. The event, which was co-organized by the Continuing Education and Career Planning and Placement departments, included more than 46 employers such as: Charter One Bank, Federal Express, Coca Cola Enterprises, United Postal Service, Health Partners Inc., the Wayne County Sheriff's Office and more. Employers met with people to talk about potential job openings, provided feedback on resumes and biographies and discussed ways to make them more competitive in the market. More than 343 students and residents attended the job fair, and officials reported receiving requests to host one every semester.



Students collect \$5,000 to build well in African village

Andrea King
Staff Writer

An Italian dinner helped some American students in their goal to build a well in Africa.

Seventh grade students at North Middle School have generated more than \$5,000 to build the well in a small African village where water is a precious commodity.

And they still have more funds on the way.

"We took in about \$2,000 at the dinner, had \$3,500 before and we're still accepting donations," said Steve Hudock, a social studies teacher who initiated the project. "Now, we're hoping for about \$7,000 total."

The service project, planned by Hudock and social studies teacher Ron Hoepfner, was built around a cross-cultural unit that teaches students about Africa, as well as the troubles facing the continent. Hudock said more than half of all people don't have access to safe drinking water and those who do have to walk miles to get it.

The spaghetti dinner at the school provided more than just funds for the project, he added.

"It was an emotional time when the kids talked about what they learned," he said. "We had them carrying water down the halls, telling parents about how it was and showing them how life is there for others. It was so powerful."

The event also included music by the school band and choir and a raffle of more than 35 items for area businesses for the more than 300 attendees.

"It was very powerful to see our students coming together," said Hudock. "It was such a cross section of our demographic population here at the school. Sure, it's wonderful

that we're raising money for the well, but it's also something bigger when the kids and community is coming together."

"I really do think it changed their

thinking," he added. "It's such a cool experience for middle school students because it's a time when they're trying to define themselves so it gives kids something to think

back about and say they've enjoyed it. I want them to have a real experience here (school) and this is doing it. They were engaged about Africa, participated, motivated and interested."

Donations can be sent to: North Middle School c/o Steve Hudock, 47097 McBride St., Belleville, MI 48111 until May 9. An assembly will

take place May 27 at the school where students will be recognized for their efforts. Hudock and Hoepfner will also be shaving their heads as a reward for the students' surpassing their goal.

For more information call (734) 697-9171 or email shudock@vanburenschools.net or email rhoepfn@vanburenschools.net.



A group of seventh grade helpers assist teacher Steve Hudock with the prize raffle.



Rakayla Walker and Chelsie Fire greeted guests as they entered the spaghetti dinner fundraiser to collect donations.

Farmers Market to move

The Belleville Farmer's Market will change location this year. It will now take place in Victory Park.

Typically, the market is located behind the Belleville Area Museum in the city municipal parking lot, however, with the upcoming construction on Main Street and the redevelopment project, the farmer's market will not be feasible in that location, officials said.

The Farmer's Market will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays beginning May 3. The fee is \$10 per day for produce vendors with a maximum of \$100 for the season. Arts and craft vendors are \$15 per day. Vendors are not required to attend every Saturday.

For applications and more information, contact market supervisor Bob Kennedy or city hall at (734) 697-9323.

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Pursuant to and by authority conferred upon me by the Secretary of State by Section 794C of Act No. 116 of the Public Act of 1954, as amended, notice is hereby given that a Public Accuracy Test shall be conducted by the Election Commission of the City of Romulus at 3:00 p.m. Friday, May 2, 2008 in the City Clerk's Office, 11111 South Wayne Road, for the purpose of certifying the programs to be used in the counting devices which will be utilized to process Absentee Ballots in the May 6, 2008 School Board Election. Said Meeting is open to the public and any concerned citizen may attend.

Linda R. Choate, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: May 1, 2008

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Business closures spark rebuilding efforts

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Over the years, downtown Belleville has seen many businesses come and go.

Just recently, the Bayou Grill closed and owners filed for bankruptcy, according to officials. Prior to that, it was Cafe Delight, also on Main Street and, JB's Place, which is being moved by owners to Sumpert Township.

Now, it's time for the city to be pro-active to find businesses to come to Belleville, officials said.

"When something closes up there will be someone who wants to open something," said Mayor Richard Smith.

However, factors, like the economy, viability of the city and surrounding competition all weigh heavy on downtown development.

"I don't think it's one reason or cause,"

We're going to work the market study done a couple years ago, put it together and go after the business market to make the downtown stronger.

Carol Thompson

said Carol Thompson, administrative coordinator for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). "There are a number of things working together to make smaller business viable in our community and to strive and thrive, such as the economy, but also things that the city can do to bring improvements."

"When you're starting a business it's a commitment of time and money and sometimes it's few and far between that people

have that commitment," said Smith. "I think we're an attractive, pedestrian friendly town."

The DDA is already doing things to market business retention, Thompson said, including drafting a \$300,000 façade program.

"We're going to work the market study done a couple years ago, put it together and go after the business market to make the downtown stronger," she said.

"It's not one simple answer to rebuild, but improvements at Horizon Park and the lake-

front will encourage and fill vacancies in the storefronts and draw customers," she added.

Smith said it's difficult because local businesses have to compete with the big-box stores and that's hard to do price-wise.

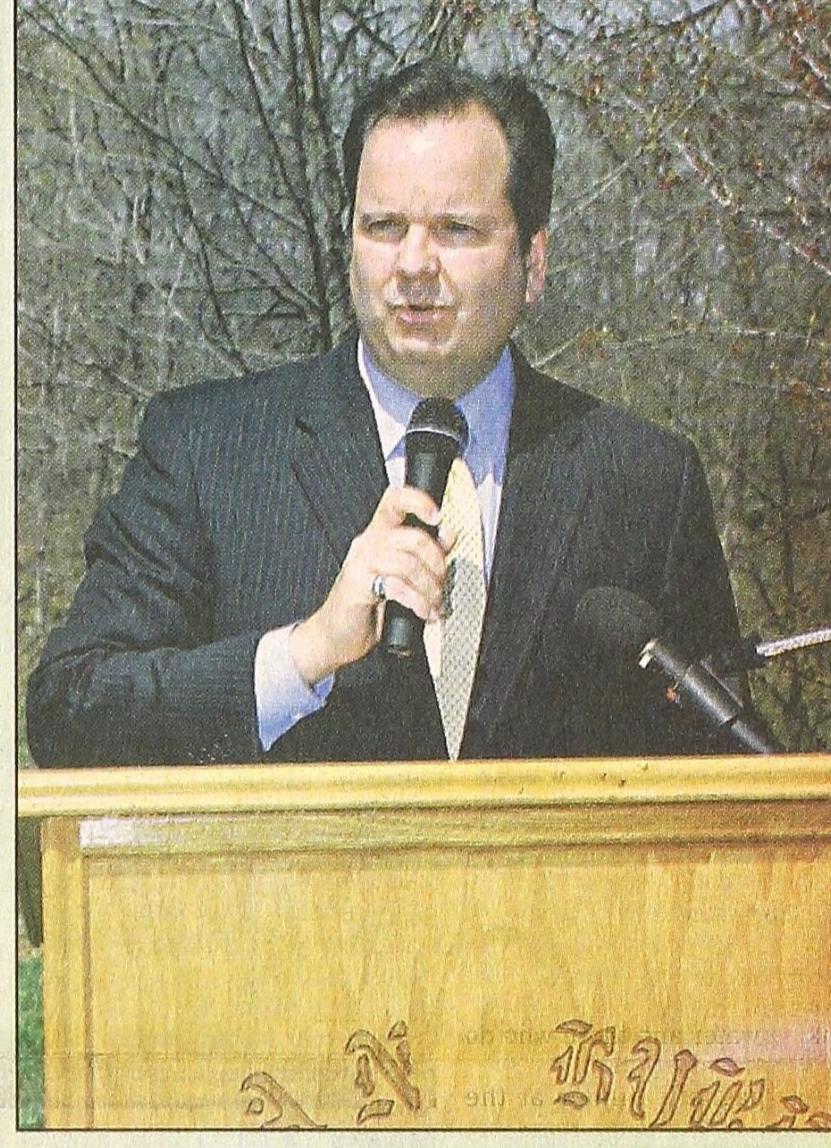
"We need specialty stores that carry merchandise not found in the big-box stores," he said. "I'd like to see a jewelry store, a men's clothing shop and a general sports shop to fill out the spaces. I feel we have enough restaurants."

An increase in restaurants and dining, for example the new Red Beans and Rice on Main Street, though, is something Thompson said is needed downtown.

"I'd also like to see more retail so if people want to stroll around the community they can," she said. "Improving roads, property upgrades and a new streetscape will also benefit the rebuilding of downtown."

Welcome to Woods Creek

The Woods Creek renaming ceremony took place recently at the Lower Huron Metropark in Van Buren Township. Dave Wilson, the founding member of the Woods Creek Friends; Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano; Van Buren Township Supervisor Cindy King, Kurt Heise, director of the Wayne County Department of Environment and Drain Commission; Laura Rubin, executive director of the Huron River Watershed and Paul Muelle, chief of natural resources for the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority were among officials on-hand to celebrate the renaming as part of Earth Day. The creek was formerly known as Riggs Drain.

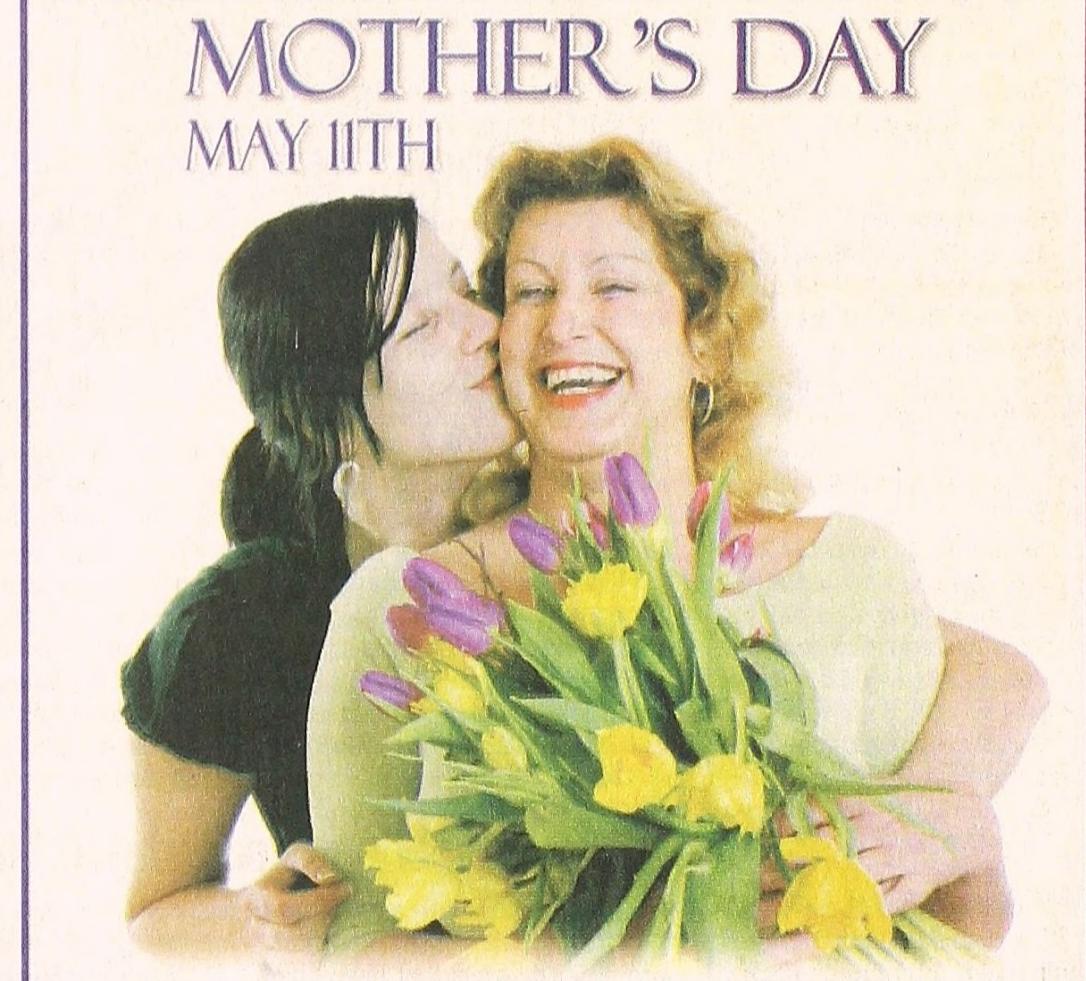


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Calendar of events

Drop-in crafts planned

The Romulus Public Library will host a drop-in craft session to mark Mother's Day.

The session will take place at 10:30 a.m. on May 3.

There is no charge for the event, but registration is required. Spots will be reserved on a first come, first-served basis.

The Romulus Public Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road, next to Romulus City Hall.

For more information, call the library at (734) 942-7589.

City-wide garage sale is coming

Residents that want to rid themselves of some things that have been cluttering their homes can do so on the weekend of May 15-18 during the annual city-wide garage sale.

The sale gives residents the opportunity to have a yard sale without a paying for a permit.

Those planning to have a garage sale must complete a no-fee permit at the Parks and Recreation Department.

For more information, call Romulus Parks and Recreation at (734) 941-8665.

Scrapbooking adventure

The Romulus Recreation Department is hosting a series of scrap booking get-togethers at the Shook Road facility.

The class, which is limited to the first 12 people who sign up, includes at least 3 feet of crop space; snacks, water and dinner; supplies; a raffle drawing for a additional fee and a door prize drawing.

Classes will take place from noon-9 p.m. Classes are open to adults 16 and older.

The cost of individual classes is \$20 (cash only).

For more information, call Romulus Parks and Recreation at (734) 941-8665.

Mom-to-mom sale

Moms who seek to obtain high-quality used items are invited to the annual city Mom-to-Mom sale.

The sale is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 10 at the Romulus Progressive Hall, 11580 Ozga Road.

Rental is \$20 for a 10-foot by 8-foot space with a table. Space is limited, and early registration is encouraged.

Concessions will be available.

For more information, call Romulus Parks and Recreation at (734) 941-8665.

Yoga classes offered

Instructor Belinda Patrick will teach a beginner yoga class that focuses on moving the body in a mindful and gentle way.

The goal of gentle yoga is to reduce stress, improve flexibility, strength, balance, and promote overall well being, a spokesman said. Participants will be required to bring a yoga mat.

Other props will be used and discussed in class.

The classes will take place at the Romulus Recreation Department from noon until 1 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

Costs for new students are \$42 for a one-class cycle, and \$78 for a two-class cycle. Returning students can take part in the classes for \$40 and \$60, respectively.

Compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen. To publish an event, send an e-mail to mtippen@journalgroup.com.

'Thunder' rolls in Belleville

Andrea King
Staff Writer

'Thunder' will once again roll into Belleville on Memorial Day.

The fourth annual "Thunder Rolls" event, sponsored by the Brown Funeral Home and Family Center in Belleville, will take place at 1 p.m. on Monday, May 26 with a Memorial Day ride through the area to remember, reflect and honor veterans of the past, present and future who have given their all for our country, organizers said.

"I'm a military brat," Kathie Steigerwald, organizer of the event said jokingly. "I think our soldiers deserve this day."

Riders will start at the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) western campus and end at the Veteran's Memorial on High Street. Everyone, of course, is welcome, Steigerwald said.

"It's received wonderfully and every year it gets larger and keeps growing," she said.

Last year, more than 200 riders joined the event, but the hope for this year is to have about 300 riders to exceed the last one, according to Steigerwald.

"The World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. was dedicated about five years ago by the National Funeral Directors, where more than \$4 million was raised to build the memorial there. We were a part of that so we wanted to do our own 'Thunder Rolls' in Belleville," she said.

Registration and line-up will take place at 11 a.m. at the college. Bikers will then ride out of the college, go south to East Huron River Drive, then west to Haggerty Road up to Bemis Road, then west on Bemis to Rawsonville Road, north on Rawsonville Road up to the south service drive, back up the I-94 Service Drive to Haggerty Road, then west on East Huron River Drive past the Brown Funeral Home to Main Street, then north on Main Street and end at High Street.

After the ride, a memorial service will take place at 2:30 p.m. at the Veteran's Memorial at Horizon Park, across from the Grace Baptist Church in Belleville. It will coincide with the dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington and will include the reading of names of veterans.

The cost is \$10 for riders, which includes a "Thunder Rolls in Belleville" pin. Proceeds and all other donations will go to local veterans and their families through the VFW.

"If you don't ride, then go along the path to watch the bikes go by. It's awesome," Steigerwald said.

For more information, to participate in the event or to donate, contact Steigerwald or Mary Martinez at (734) 697-5090.

Race - Election is scheduled for May 6

FROM PAGE 1

and other districts that have open enrollment.

Also part of the mix is the never-ending issue of state per-pupil funding, which is still imperiled because of the economic issues currently plaguing the state.

Romulus Community Schools is currently comprised of five elementary schools, one middle

school, one high school and an alternative education facility.

Choate said voters need to remember that they will have to show identification to have their ballot counted. Voters without ID will be asked to fill out an affidavit to confirm their identity.

Any questions about the election can be directed to the Romulus City Clerk's Office at (734) 942-7540.



Spring fling

Cory Elementary School Student Council members, along with the nutrition and foods class at Romulus High School recently prepared a lunch for their special guests from the Romulus Senior Center. Shakeim Higgins, left, a student at Romulus High School; Briana Bohannon, a student at Cory; Tiffany Cummings and Abigail Tieppo, both students at Romulus and Destinee Hayes, who attends Cory, all participated in the event.

Van Buren student diagnosed with virus

Andrea King
Staff Writer

An Elwell Elementary School student was diagnosed recently with the skin bacteria methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), however no other students have been infected, according to school officials.

"The student is now at home, there have been no reports of other students and the problem has been taken care of through proper cleaning," said Paul Henning, spokesperson for the district.

A letter was mailed to parents throughout the Van Buren Public School District on Monday after officials were notified that the student was diagnosed with MSRA, a potentially deadly strain of staph, which causes skin irritation.

"We have contacted the Wayne County Health Department and decided to go above and beyond their recommendations for disinfecting the building for the safety of our students and staff," he said.

"We will continually remind staff and students at all buildings to maintain proper hygiene by washing their hands frequently."

School personnel first heard

about MRSA in October 2007, although this is the first incident reported, according to officials.

MRSA is a type of bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics, including methicillin, oxacillin, penicillin and amoxicillin. Infections occur more frequently among people in hospitals and healthcare facilities who have weakened immune systems, but can also occur in otherwise healthy people. The infections are usually skin infections, such as abscesses, boils and other pus-filled lesions, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

For additional information, contact the Wayne County Department of Public Health, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention or Lazaroff at (734) 697-9123 ext. 209.

Judge - So far, no opponents in upcoming court election

FROM PAGE 1

Constitution Society and serves as secretary to the Wayne County District Judges Association. He also maintains the Michigan District Judges Association Directory.

"With the support of my colleagues, Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green and Judge Brian Oakley, we have developed specialty court programs to address specific needs

in the community," said Parrott. "In addition to our very successful work program where defendants repay their debts to society through community service, I'm responsible for the domestic violence court while Judge Green oversees sobriety court and Judge Oakley the juvenile diversion court. We have had great success in each of these areas and will continue guiding offenders in breaking the cycle of failure to become productive, law-

abiding citizens. I hope that the residents of the 34th District allow me to continue this most important work by electing me to another six-year term," Parrott said.

The 34th District Court serves the communities of the City of Belleville, Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township, the City of Romulus, Huron Township and includes Metro and Willow Run Airport, the Lower Huron, Oakwood and Willow metroparks.

Pantry - Cupboard is now bare

FROM PAGE 1

and other districts that have open enrollment.

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Any questions about the election can be directed to the Romulus City Clerk's Office at (734) 942-7540.

The election is May 6.



Kindergarten extravaganza

Cory Elementary School staff members welcomed many new, soon-to-be kindergartners for the 2008-09 school year at the recent kindergarten extravaganza/orientation. Families were able to enjoy an introduction to the school Reading First program, practice with motor skills, and take a tour of the school. Lunches were provided throughout the afternoon, and several lucky families went home with gift baskets while one \$100 Visa gift card was awarded. Showing off his new backpack stuffed with school readiness materials are Joseph Brothers and his mother, Valerie Brown.

Helping Hands operates a food bank in conjunction with St. Aloysius Catholic Church. Typically, parishioners will donate food to the pantry, but support from the community would help the pantry meet the needs of the community.

Khen said non-perishable items are the most in-demand, including canned goods like soup or tuna, and of course vegetables.

Families that need food assistance typically call the church, where information about their income and the number of family members who are need of food is written down on an application.

From there, church volunteers will make up a food basket to take them through a rough spot, Khen said.

Hunger is a difficult and increasing problem in Michigan. The Food Security Institute at Brandies University indicated that slightly more than 8 percent of households in Michigan are described as "food insecure."

Those who would like to make donations to the food pantry can drop food off at the Helping Hands building, which is located at 37510 Huron River Dr.

More information is available by phoning Helping Hands at (734) 941-5323.

OPINION

These candidates received our top marks

Another school board election has snuck up on a lot of voters in State of Michigan.

Tuesday, voters in the Romulus, Westwood, Inkster and Wayne-Westland Community School districts will chose new faces to serve for the next four years. In some cases, they face clear cut decisions, in others they are more difficult.

Romulus

Voters in Romulus have three viable candidates to choose from for the two open seats on the board. They are incumbent Tom Kuderik, Danielle Funderburg and Darra Shelby.

We think voters should return **Tom Kuderik** to the board and fulfill the long-standing dream of **Danielle Funderburg** to serve, as well.

Kuderik has been impressive in his first term on the board. He's already had to face many difficult challenges, including budget deficits, layoffs and enrollment issues. Those tough choices will serve him—and the school board—well in the next four years. He is also very visible in the district, attending many functions, and goes above and beyond the typical time requirement for school board members.

Funderburg and Shelby are both solid candidates. Funderburg is a former parent coordinator at Wick Elementary School and Shelby is a Romulus police officer and former school liaison officer at Romulus High School. Both would bring a unique voice to the board and a unique perspective.

We like Funderburg for the seat, though, because she has shown that it is a passion of hers. This will be her third attempt at election to the school board, but the first time she

didn't face off against a field of all incumbents. We hope she's successful this time around and we hope Shelby throws his hat in the ring during the next school board election, too.

Inkster

In the Inkster Public School District, voters will be able to send two familiar faces to the school board, although neither is currently serving the district.

DeArtriss Coleman-Richardson and **Norma McDaniel** are the best choices to serve the community.

Coleman-Richardson, who served for two terms on the Inkster City Council and was defeated last year in a run for the mayoral seat, brings a wealth of political knowledge to the office. She's always spoken her mind and pushed for her ideas and we think her strength will be a benefit on the board. A retired social worker, she will also bring that perspective to the district.

Likewise McDaniel has the experience to help guide the district through the troubled times ahead. She served for two terms, including a stint as vice president and secretary, on the board from 1991-1999. She has also served on the Inkster Planning Commission and on the charter commission. We like her ideas on looking into district contracts to save money, supporting the superintendent as a way to build cohesiveness in the community and looking at alternative funding sources to help pay for district improvements.

Westwood

Voters in the Westwood School District also face an important—and easy—choice when they head to the polls on May 6.

There are three candidates seeking two seats on the board: **Hilliard Hampton III**, **Roderick Means** and **Mario Fundarski**.

Hilliard Hampton and **Roderick Means**, both incumbents, are the clear choices here.

Hampton is finishing his first term on the board and he deserves a chance to continue his work. A life-long resident of Inkster, he has a degree in business and organizational management and provides a beneficial voice on the board. We like his concerns about improving academic achievement and communication between the municipal entities that comprise the district, too. He also served on the committee that looked into developing Tomlinson as a dedicated middle school and deserves to see that process through.

Likewise, a vote for Means is also a no-brainer. His 20 years on the board proves that he's dedicated to the district. He has been active in planning for the future of the district, through crafting the strategic plan as well as serving on the committee to update the board policy manual, which will outline how the school board operates. His expertise in those areas as well as his experience on the board will be invaluable in the difficult times all school districts will face in the coming year.

Vote is important

School board races tend to not receive the same attention as other political contests, but they are just as—if not more—important. The quality of the school district is one of the largest contributing factors to the overall quality of life—and property values—within a community. Please vote on May 6.

Trustees approval was right

Members of the Canton Township Board of Trustees probably know they made an unpopular decision last week.

The trustees unanimously approved the expansion plan for the Hindu Temple on Cherry Hill Road, just east of Canton Center Road, despite strong opposition from the neighboring residents and an apparent offer from the developer to move the structure and alleviate some of those neighbors' concerns.

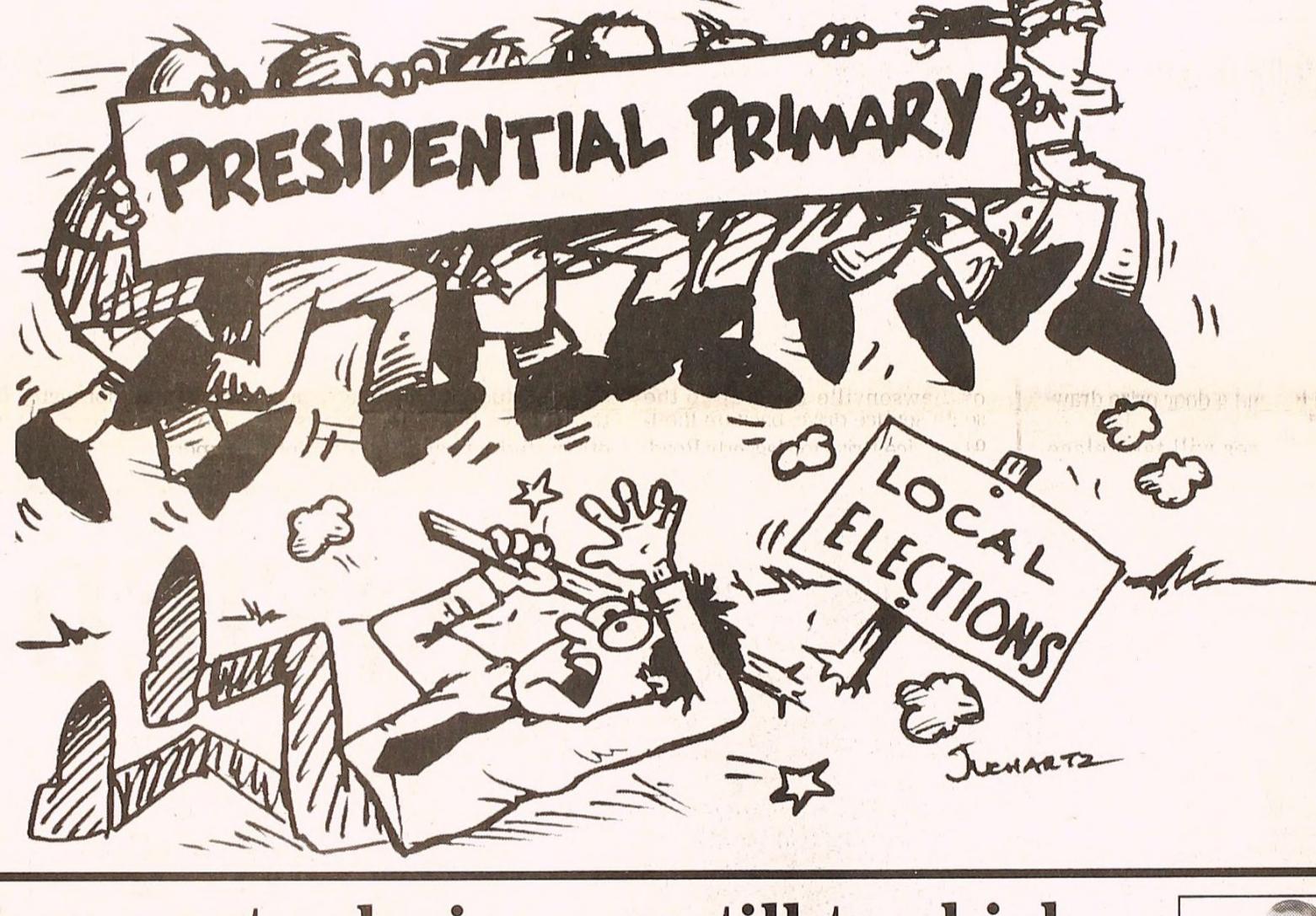
It may have been unpopular, but it was the only decision they could make.

It's understandable that the residents would feel frustration at the offer to move the building about 100 feet to the north and to the east side of the site, too—that would move it away from the bulk of the homes and solve most of their problems. The offer was tendered, but withdrawn a few days later, allegedly because the neighbors couldn't come up with a unanimous approval of it and of unforeseen engineering problems associated with moving the building and redesigning portions of it.

Trustee Todd Caccamo asked the question that everyone in the room was probably thinking: is that offer still on the table? He asked it knowing that it didn't really matter because (a) the project met or exceeded all township ordinances and (b) the board couldn't just ask the developer to move the building, they needed a reason to do it other than the wishes of the residents. There is also a precedent for this kind of project in the township, too.

Residents might feel like they

See Approval, page 6



Government salaries are still too high

I don't want to get off on a rant here, but I sometimes find it hard to sympathize with government employees.

These are people I talk to often throughout the course of my daily job and I tend to rely on them to do it effectively, too. Here in Wayne I often see them around town in those rare moments when I'm not actually on the clock, as well, and I generally like most of them—they're good people.

Still, when it gets around to budget time I get frustrated enough to start breaking pens because the municipal marketplace seems to be the only one not making big enough adjustments to keep down

costs.

You'll see the occasional acknowledgement here and there—the Canton Township Board of Trustees mulling a decrease in salary for elected officials, department heads or school administrators taking a temporary pay freeze—but you know they'll eventually make up those 'lost' funds, too. In the meantime, everyone talks bravely about how they're doing more with less.

Well, if that's what amounts to bravery in the workforce, we all need the proverbial red badge of courage. I'd like to talk about a field where people are not doing more for less, but I can't name one. I'll tell you one thing, though: it sure isn't journalism.

It doesn't matter where you live or what your government is like, though, chances are you will find some outdated practice that contributes to the dire budget situation your city or township is facing.

One of my big pet peeves here in Wayne is the concept of longevity pay. It's something that employees are eligible for after three years of service; a bonus you find in government but hardly anywhere else.

This year, according to the budget proposed, the city will pay out more than \$215,000 in longevity bonuses—at a time when the police department is operating at staff levels lower than 2006, when the administration is considering laying off a full-time person in the Youth Services Department,

moving the office to the Rec center and selling the building on Wayne Road and taking more than \$5 million from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to balance the budget. Even so, the proposed budget calls for taking more than \$260,000 from the fund balance, leaving only about \$378,000.

I know this is a contract issue. You can't do much about it now. In the future, though, this is some-

thing that has to go. It amounts to rewarding someone for not getting fired. They have a bonus like that elsewhere: it's called 'You don't have to look for a new job.' In this day and age in Michigan, that's quite a benefit.

Granted, this will not solve all of the budgetary problems here in Wayne. It will cycle up and down, too, as new employees are hired and old ones retire.

The thing is, though, that it will never be zero.

City officials might argue that it's important to keep employees around for the long term, but that's not necessarily true. You just want to keep good employees.

If municipalities want to hand out bonuses, they should be based on merit and nothing else. It'll save funds every year, and it'll be easier to justify to the homeowners still fortunate enough to be able to pay their taxes.

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The Journal Newspapers are published Thursdays
at 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan, 48184.
Central office hours are 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Phone 734-467-1900

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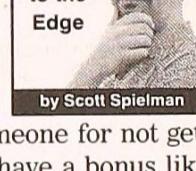
One of the most moving events in Wayne County will take place this Friday in Inkster.

The annual police memorial will begin at 11 a.m., as it has for the past 20 years, in front of the old city hall building on Inkster Road and River Park Drive. Gathered will be members of the Inkster Police Department, several other local police departments, representatives from any department that lost an officer in the

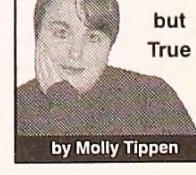
line of duty in Michigan in the previous year, and numerous city and county officials.

The most important invited guests are the family members of the four Inkster police officers who were killed in the line of duty, who still come out, year after year, to remember their loved ones.

I've covered the police memorial for four previous years, and this one will be the first I've had



Close to the Edge
by Scott Spielman



Sad but True
by Molly Tippen

A chance to show due respect

to miss, because of family concerns (our photographer will be on-site, so this year, the pictures will better).

What I have noticed during the past four years is that only a handful of interested residents attend the memorial – most of the attendees are family members of

See Respect, page 6



Scouts honor

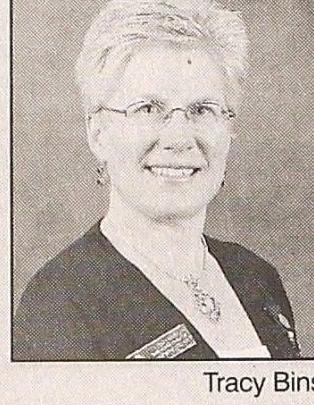
Several Plymouth and Northville area women were recognized for outstanding service to the Girl Scouts recently during the 2008 Girl Scouts Huron Valley Council Volunteer Recognition Dinner last month. Peggy Fisher of Plymouth received a Girl Scouts of the United States Thanks Badge II, the highest volunteer recognition available from the 96-year old organization. Fisher is a master trainer with the Girl Scouts who helped develop the training modules for Brownie and Junior Girl Scout leaders. Cheryle McCormick, also of Plymouth, along with Northville residents Tracy Bins, Mary Jo Birk and Valerie Niemiec received the President's Award. The leaders of the Northville C Service Unit were also recognized for an 85 percent scout retention rate and a 32 percent increase in new girl membership. The group has also established new community service events.



Peggy Fisher



Cheryle McCormick



Tracy Bins

Battle of the bulge

Fitness expert brings new programs to area

Lester L. Holmes, Jr.
Staff Writer

A wellness and fitness expert is bringing the battle against the bulge to Plymouth.

Marji Sharp, a health and wellness coach, is leading a 12-week workshop and contest to inspire Plymouth and surrounding community residents to shed the pounds and gain confidence during the Plymouth Weight Loss Challenge, sponsored by Herbalife.

"With Michigan currently tied for ninth place in obesity rates, there is not a better time to provide an additional way to help those in our community who would like to live a healthier life," said Sharp, a Canton Township resident.

Sharp said the three month program will focus on helping people make better decisions when it comes to food and teaching participants what particular foods can do to the body.

In addition to learning about foods, Sharp added that participants would learn how to fit an exercise regimen into their schedules and information on how stress and environment can impact weight loss.

Workshop attendees will be weighed and measured by challenge staff before the session. Participants will have an opportunity to win prizes and money for losing weight and inches. The three participants who lose the most weight during the challenge will win 50, 30 and 20 percent respectively of the total amount raised from workshop fees. The person who loses the most inches from their mid-section will also receive an award.

"The majority of the money charged in workshop fees will go back to the participants through awards and cash prizes," said

Sharp. A portion of the workshop fees will go to FitKids, a national movement to encourage exercise and healthy eating habits in children and youth.

Sharp said she understands the challenges people face in losing weight since she has fought the battle. Since being a participant in a weight-loss challenge more than two years ago, Sharp said she has lost more than 2 inches from her waist and "dropped" two dress sizes.

While Herbalife is a sponsor in the Plymouth Weight Loss Challenge, participants are not forced to use those products or services.

"We will honor all weight-loss programs," said Sharp who added that the support system generated from the workshop would enable those fighting to lose weight the encouragement they need to shed the pounds.

"They are going to have fun, but they will learn something, too," she added.

The Plymouth Weight Loss Challenge group will meet this Saturday at the Plymouth Cultural Center located at 525 Farmer St. in Plymouth.

The session will begin with a "weigh in" starting at 12:45 p.m. followed by a workshop at 1 p.m. The public is invited to attend. There is a \$39 registration fee to participate in the program. Call 1-888-233-0398 for more information.



Marji Sharp

Approval

FROM PAGE 6

have been slighted by the board and the developer. They may feel like they have been ignored, too. We don't think that's the case, though. In the end, the project has been improved through their input. The board might not be particularly thrilled with the project, but they had no real choice but to approve it.

police officers, retired police officers, and the like.

There's not much support for police officers in the community, and that's not to criticize residents, it's merely to make a point.

Chief Gregory Gaskin, before a long, boring budget meeting Monday, mentioned that he knew of some residents who saw another

Respect

FROM PAGE 6

And he's right. The department can only respond to problems they know about, which means the members of the community have to be willing to engage authorities if they expect illegal activity to cease.

There's always a lot of talk about the improving the city

er person break into an abandoned home.

He said the people who saw this didn't call police.

"There's so much apathy," he lamented.

But for potential new families to move in, they have to feel that their neighborhood is safe.

For businesses to move in, the owners have to feel as though they won't be the victims of petty, and more serious, crimes.

This is why there should be more invested in city law enforcement, at least until the crime lev-

els (which have been trending downward) are in line with cities in the immediate vicinity.

Once again, law enforcers will gather to remember Sgt. Ira Parker, Ofc. Daniel Dubiel, Ofc. Clay Hoover, and Ofc. Ken Woodmore of the Inkster Police Department, and State Trooper Robert Gonser, who was also killed in the line of duty in Inkster.

In my experience, police officers have long memories, and maybe the rest of us should, too.

CLASSIFIED

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02. In Memoriam
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04. Monuments & Cemetery Plots
05. Personals/Announcements
06. Legal Notices
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09. Lost & Found
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118. Freebies
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120. Motorcycles
121. Autos Wanted

1. Obituaries

BROOKS, Alma, Age 84 of Westland, died April 23, 2008. Beloved wife of Robert. Dear mother of Suzanne Slesinski (Mike) and Douglas (Margaret) Brooks. Preceded in death by brothers Pete and Wally, and sisters Ann, Julia and Helen. Grandmother of Becky, Matthew, Marianne and Irina. Great-grandmother of Cory and Caitlyn. Visitation was held at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Wayne. Funeral Mass was held on Saturday, April 26th at St. Mary Catholic Church in Wayne with Fr Jack Baker Officiating.

COTTINGHAM, Elmer L., Jr. "Mike," April 10, 2008 age 59 of Wayne. Beloved husband of Carmen. Dear father of Sam (Pam), Jeff (Veronica) and Lisa Colter and brother of Brenda Pierson, Peggy Foster and Robert

Cottingham, Loving grandfather of Josh, Emily, Natalie and Jeffrey Cottingham, Vargas Johnson, Clarissa McMillan, Savanna Colter and Sara and Rick Wosek. Services were held Monday April 14, 2008 at the Uht Funeral Home, Westland, with Pastor Tim McCoy and Pastor Calvin Brown officiating. Burial was in Knollwood Memorial Park Cemetery, Canton. Memorials would be appreciated to St. Jude Children's Hospital. Please visit and post a note of condolence at www.uhtfh.com.

LAWRENCE, Cornelius, age 88, died April 14, 2008. He was born January 1, 1920. He leaves to cherish his memory his loving and devoted wife, Octavia; one daughter, Mary Lawrence and one son, Ricky Lawrence; one brother, Faye Lowrance of Inkster; five sisters, Louvenia Freeman and Annette Bassett of Inkster, Lucille Wilkerson, Darcus

Wilkinson and Beulah Barnett of Rutherfordton, NC; eight grandchildren, Danny Lawrence, Edward Parker, Ricketta Powell, Renna Lawrence, Kevin Lawrence, Yolanda Lawrence, Sharice Lawrence and Juana Johnson; 23 great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Don Lawrence officiating. Cremation rites were accorded. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

PLEAS, Regina, age 46, died April 15, 2008. She was born November 15, 1961. Regina leave to cherish her memory three loving children, David, Elaine and Milous; a loving grandmother, Alaya; her mother, Catherine; two brothers, Frank (Early) and Rufus (Dorothy); one sister, Kathy; three aunts, Clara, Marylee and Ruthamae; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. Services were held at Pilgrim Travelers Baptist Church, Inkster, MI with Rev. Charlie E. Knight officiating. Cremation rites were accorded. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

STABENOW, MaryAnne (nee Ianni), age 33 of Westland, died April 25, 2008. Wife of Robert, mother of Devon, Brett, Emily and stepmother of Tiffany, Robert, Chrissy and Jacob. Grandmother of Mariah. Daughter of Jane and the late James Ianni. Sister of Dawn, James and Jonathan. Memorial visitation, Thursday, 5/1, 1-4pm with a Memorial Service at 4:00pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 34567 Michigan Ave., Wayne, MI.

SULLIVAN, Thomas J. April 15, 2008 age 85 of Wayne and Westland. Beloved husband of the late Gertrude. Dear father of Thomas E. (Ann), Patricia S. (James) Plizga and the late Kathleen Ann Sullivan. Brother of Joseph W. Sullivan and Dolores Macken. Loving grandfather of Kathleen Ann, Michael T., Patrick J. and Reilly V. Sullivan. Services were held Friday April 18, 2008 at the Uht Funeral Home, Westland, with Rev. Roy Forsyth officiating. Burial was at Cadillac Memorial Gardens Cemetery West, Westland. Memorials to the United Way of Southeast Michigan or the Wayne High School Alumni Association Scholarship Fund would be appreciated. Please visit and post a note of condolence at www.uhtfh.com.

VETITOE, Bertell M., age 93, died April 23, 2008. Loving mother of Jim (Joan) Gentry, Drema (Wes) Adkins and Gary Lee (Tam) Vetitoe. Grandmother of 12 and great grandmother of 24. Sister of Bill (Mary Lou)

Bess, Jack Bess and the late Glade Manion. Visitation was held Monday, April 28th at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Wayne. Followed with Funeral Services and burial in West Virginia. Contributions may be made to the Macular Degeneration Foundation.

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58. Garage and Yard Sales

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59. Auctions

Notice is hereby given that on 5/22/08 at 9:30 am, the following will be sold by competitive bidding at:

Store-It Self Storage
29180 Van Born
Westland, MI 48186

Unit #B92-Gloria Robinson: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #167-Tiffany Bozeman Household items, misc. goods; Unit #149-Keith D. Bowers: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #129-Joe R. Miller: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #51-Sollie Boone Jr.-Household items, misc. goods

Notice is hereby given that on 5/21/08 at 2:00 pm, the following will be sold by competitive bidding at:

National Storage Center
39205 Ford Rd.
Westland, MI 48185

Unit #159-Anita Casaday: Misc. goods; Unit #220-Deborah Tozer: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #222-Lanthyra Garland: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #326-Alexandria Turner: Household items, recreational items, misc. goods; Unit #368-Rick Clink: Household items, misc. goods

Notice is hereby given that on 5/21/08 at 3:00 PM, the following will be sold by competitive bidding at:

The Storroom Self Storage
40600 Michigan Ave.
Canton, MI

Space #231-Rodney Allen: Household goods, recreational items, misc. goods; Space #314-Walter Clayton: Household goods, misc. goods; Space #509-Gloria Black: Household goods, recreational goods, misc. goods; Space #1217-Household goods, recreational goods, misc. goods; Space #1415-Loch LaMonde Landscaping: Household goods, recreational goods, misc. goods

Notice of Public Sale On May 20, 2008 at 1:00PM

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Will sell the following units to the highest bidder by cash. U-Store-It reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. All items in storage units contain household or personal items unless otherwise mentioned:

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D96: Alicia R. Johnson
E48: Donna Marie Grant

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SPORTS

Canton solid against Wayne

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

A three-run homer by Canton junior Nick Tomilienko in the fifth inning helped Canton get by visiting Wayne Memorial, 12-2, in five innings on Friday.

Canton was already up 6-2 headed in to the fifth. They put up five runs in the fourth.

"Wayne pitched themselves into trouble with a few hit batters and walks," said Canton Coach Mark Blomshield. "Nick came through with a three-run homer and we continued to hit contagiously."

Senior shortstop Ryan Neu was good for two hits for two RBIs. Senior Ben Vaughn added two hits with two RBIs. Sophomore Alex Dixon had two base hits and a double.

The Chiefs had a solid performance from sophomore pitcher Kevin Delapaz on the mound. He struck out nine batters and only gave up three hits in the four innings.

"We did a nice job defensively and the starting pitching was great from Delapaz," Blomshield said. "He was throwing strikes with a terrific circle that was getting Wayne's hitters out in front a little bit."

Wayne looked good on both sides of the game through the first three and half innings.

Wayne knotted the score up, 1-1, in the third inning when junior Rodney Manning scored on an error. Senior Erik Schmitt scored in the fourth to give Wayne a 2-1 lead.

Sophomore Zack Lloyd was steady on the

mound through three innings before Canton opened the floodgates in the fourth.

"It was the same old story for us," said Wayne Coach Paul Cavanaugh. "We have that one bad inning in a game that we don't recover from."

Wayne splits with Ypsilanti

Wayne's Rodney Manning earned his third win and is undefeated on the mound when he helped his Zebras beat Ypsilanti, 11-0, in the first game of a home doubleheader on Saturday.

Manning pitched a complete game, giving up only two hits while striking out five.

Stefan Harrison had three hits and Tim Sigfried and Zeb Hancock each had two hits.

The hammer fell the other way in second game. Wayne lost the bout, 12-11.

Ypsilanti jumped to a 7-0 lead in the first frame. The Zebras bounced back in the third with some key hits, including Eric Robertson's three-run homer that put Wayne back in the driver's seat, 8-7.

Ypsi took advantage of three Wayne errors in the sixth and scored four runs.

"I was real encouraged by our offensive output on Saturday and the fact that this team has put itself in some real early holes this year but they keep their heads up and keep fighting," Cavanaugh said. "I can only believe that will help us out later in the year in a big game, I have been real proud of them in their never say quit mentality they have shown this year."



Wayne senior Brent Patterson (13) slides in to second against Canton on Friday. Canton won the game, 12-2, in five innings.

Lady 'Stangs blank Warriors

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Last week was a busy one for the Lady Mustang varsity softball team. They won six of the seven games played to improve to an impressive 15-1 overall.

Northville remained undefeated at 8-0 in the Western Lakes play with a 6-0 shutout of Walled Lake Western on Monday.

Northville pitchers continue to dominate this season.

Senior Allison Holmes earned the win at Walled Lake Western. She pitched a three-hitter with 18 strikeouts.

Senior Kelsey Lewis led the offensive attack with two singles and a double with an RBI and a run scored. Junior Sarah Rounser went 2-for-2 with a single and double and an RBI. Holmes, senior Jenna Dumbleton, senior Megan Hofmeister (RBI-double) and freshman Mary Rounser all had hits, too.

Sarah Rounser scored senior Kelsey Whelan in the first inning to get things going. Hofmeister doubled in freshman Karly Fisher and Hofmeister scored on a Lewis's double in the second for a 3-0 game. Junior Mariel Wilson scored on a passed ball in the fourth. Senior Brittany Birdsall hit a grounder that scored Lewis and Dumbleton on a fielder's choice and error in the seventh.

"The entire team played well today. Allison was on fire, striking out 18," said Northville Coach Teryn Chrzanowski. She really pitched well and shut them down. Offensively, the girls swung at good pitches and put the ball in play."

Northville played four games over the weekend at the Saline Invitational tournament no Saturday.

The Mustangs lost their first game of the season, 1-0, when Monroe scored at the bottom of the seventh with a walk-off single.

Senior Jamie Cotrone and junior Mariel Wilson each had a triple in the game but were left stranded on base. Birdsall, Dumbleton and senior Alex Kaszuba each had a hit.

Holmes suffered her first loss of the season. She struck out nine and gave up four hits in the effort.

Northville had two impressive wins before that, beating Wayland (ranked no. 3 in Division 2), 4-3, in the first game of the tournament. Holmes earned the win with nine strikeouts. On offense, Birdsall had a two-RBI double and junior Nara DeMuro and Wilson each had a double.

Northville mercied Ann Arbor Huron, 13-0, in five innings in the second game.

Dumbleton took the win from the circle, giving up just one hit and striking out four. Junior Sam Doud led the offense with three hits and two RBIs.

Northville bounced back from the loss to Monroe with an 8-2 victory over Wyandotte in the final game of the day. Dumbleton remained undefeated from the circle, retiring 11 batters. She was a force at bat, too, with two singles and a double with an RBI. Fisher was 2-for-2 with two runs scored.

Northville opened with an 11-0 lead in four frames against visiting Franklin on Friday. The Patriots started to hit Dumbleton and saved a mercy with five runs in the fifth. Holmes notched the save and helped Northville to a 12-5 victory.

Sarah Rounser had a three-run homer in the first and Dumbleton knocked in two on a double in the second for Northville to give the Lady Mustangs a 7-0 lead at the end of two. Rounser finished 3-for-4 with a total of five RBIs.

"The girls hit the ball hard. They were patient at the plate, drawing five walks," Chrzanowski said. "Jenna cruised until the fifth inning when Franklin's hitters were seeing her for a third time. They got her timing and started hitting the ball, so we made the switch and Allison earned the save. Again, today's win was a total team effort."

Holmes pitched a perfect game with 15 strikeouts for Northville to beat Walled Lake Central, 1-0, last Wednesday.

With two outs in the fifth Cotrone ripped a double to score Wilson for the lone score.



Northville junior Karen Mayhall (7) works against Plymouth sophomore Meghan Hughes (20) last Wednesday. Northville won the game 4-0.

Mustang kickers top Western

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Northville Lady Mustang varsity soccer pulled out three more wins last week to stay undefeated this season.

The Lady Mustang kickers allowed only the third goal against this season in a 3-1 victory against visiting Walled Lake Western on Monday night.

Although it might seem like a coach's dream to score early on a tough team and then rely on a sturdy defense to carry the team through, it was anything but for Northville Coach Ron Meteyer.

So when senior Sarah Stern dropped a pass to junior Jill Alumbaugh, who took it up the right side and fired a shot that bounced off the left upright and past the goalkeeper just 1:38 into the match, Meteyer was everything but joyous.

"It's a coach's worst nightmare to score that early," he said. "We warned them that Western was going to be tough. So when they score that early they feel like we don't know what we're talking about."

Meteyer knew exactly what he was talking about. A five-minute injury timeout didn't help things, either, as the team laid back with the 1-0 lead. Western took advantage and, with about 27 minutes left to play in the first, took its only shot on net in the half—a long ball from almost 40 yards out that bounced over sophomore goalkeeper Katherine Jansen's head to tie the score.

The goal ended Northville's five-game shutout streak.

Northville regained composure and before the first half expired, Northville senior Julia Bawden raced up the left side and scored to make it a 2-1 game for the 'Stangs.

Northville put the game away at 16:37 when junior Nicole Miller took control just

inside midfield on the Mustang side and pushed the ball up the left side. She dropped it to sophomore Lauren Lokey who gave it right back to Miller for the insurance goal.

"It wasn't an inspiring win," Meteyer said. "It was an off night but I guess if you can have an off game and still win, 3-1, we'll take it."

The triumph improved Northville to 9-0.

2. Western fell to 6-4-1.

On Friday, the Lady Mustangs doled out Saline's first loss of the season in a 1-0 home victory.

Northville had two shots on net and made the first one count.

Stern knocked in the winning tally on a hard shot to the upper right corner about eight minutes into the contest just after a corner kick.

Sophomore Elana Ryznar notched the shutout in net, stopping one shot.

Northville shut out Plymouth, 4-0, last Wednesday.

Stern, a Michigan state University recruit, scored a goal and had three assists to lead the attack.

With about 27:14 left in the first half, Stern passed off to Bawden who one-touched it in for a 1-0 lead. Junior Karen Mayhall made it a 2-0 game with about 10:23 left in the half.

Stern scored eight minutes into the second with an assist from Miller. Then Jansen was pulled from goal and put on the field and just 59 seconds into her shift scored the team's fourth and final goal.

Jansen played the first 50 minutes in net and Ryznar finished the game between the posts.

Northville is at Stevenson at 7 p.m. on Friday; host Wayne at 7 p.m. on Monday; and is at Plymouth at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.



Canton on track

The Canton Lady Chief varsity soccer team won its last three contests to improve to 5-3-2 on the season. The Lady Chiefs started the week off with a 9-0 victory over visiting Wayne Memorial last Monday. That snowballed into a 4-0 win against host Walled Lake Western last Wednesday and a 2-0 triumph over visiting Ann Arbor Pioneer on Friday. Above, Canton senior midfielder Jessikah McClendon, works against Wayne last Monday. Photo by Ken Garner

SPORTS

Lady Tigers continue to improve

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Belleville Lady Tigers are on the cusp of exploding into the team that they—and everyone else—thought they would be this year.

The team went 4-2 last week to get on the winning side of things with a 7-5 overall record. They're still in the hunt for the Mega Red title after a 10-0 victory over Allen Park last Wednesday.

Belleville is 3-2 in the Red with wins against Trenton, Southgate and Allen Park. They lost to Monroe and Kennedy earlier in the season.

On Saturday the Lady Tigers were 1-2 at the Chelsea Invitational.

Things there started off rocky with a 14-3 loss to Trenton.

"There weren't too many highlights there," said Belleville Coach Peggy Curtis, "but if we're going to lose to Trenton, I'd rather lose to them than in league play."

With little offense and a slew of mental errors on the defense, freshman hurler Devin Wilson suffered her first loss in the game.

Junior Samantha Cole ripped a homer in the sixth inning to score all three of Belleville's runs.

Belleville beat Canton, 3-1, in the second game.

The Lady Chiefs scored first at the top of the second frame. Belleville answered at the bottom of the inning when senior Kendall Acho singled, stole second and scored on a fielder's choice by senior Jessica Kovach.

Freshman Symone Millet put things away in the fourth with a two-RBI hit.

Cole earned the victory from the circle. She sat down five batters

Belleville then lost a close one

to Plymouth, 5-4, in the third game of the day.

The Lady Wildcats scored two right away in the first. Belleville countered with two in the second. Both Cole and Acho got on with walks, and then Wilson flipped a double to score the two base runners.

Plymouth scored two more in the fourth, but the Tigers scored two more in the fifth to make it a 4-4 game. Senior Danielle Stabnau took first when hit by a pitch and Cole got on with a single. Then senior Wendy Morton drilled a single to score Stabnau. Freshman Bridget Cole knocked her sister in.

Plymouth scored the winning run on a double in the seventh.

Curtis said she is still tinkering with the lineup in the outfield and at the plate, looking to optimize the teams' performance.

"We're close," she said. "We're still looking to see whose going to step up in the outfield. The good thing about tournament play is that we were able to play everyone and now have a better idea of things. Some players are better defensively and some are better on offense and we're just trying to find the right mix."

She added that Acho has stepped up in the outfield and made several key plays in the tournament, including throwing runners out at home from center field. Bridget Cole also stepped up and went 3-for-3 with an RBI.

Wilson is demonstrating her ability to pitch behind Samantha Cole. She earned her first varsity win last Monday when Belleville beat host Lincoln Park in the nightcap of the doubleheader.

Belleville won the game 3-1 in five innings.

Lincoln Park's first batter hit a home run but that was all the Railsplitters got.



Belleville junior hurler Samantha Cole struck out 17 batters in 11 innings to earn her Lady Tigers to a 1-0 victory over Lincoln Park in the first game of a doubleheader last week.

"She's tough," Curtis said of her freshman hurler. "She didn't let the home run phase her. She just wants the ball and to go out there and pitch."

The first game was a little tougher and a lot longer.

It took 11 frames before Millet scored on a wild pitch for the win. Samantha Cole struck out 17 batters and only

gave up two hits in the win.

Cole beat Allen Park with a one-hitter. She

struck out eight in the 10-0 win. She also went 2-for-4 with a triple and single. Junior Angel Matthews had two hits and Allison Kloc had two hits with an RBI.

Belleville heads to a tournament at Bedford at 9 a.m. on Saturday and at Kennedy at 4 p.m. on Monday and host Trenton at 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

Send us your letters

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• BABY MAMA (PG-13) 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 9:55 FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

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Notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on **Monday, May 19, 2008** for the purpose of considering a complete rewrite of Chapter 29 "Signs" of the Code of Ordinances. The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus MI 48174-1485.

The Planning Commission has set the public hearing to consider revisions to the Ordinance and take public comment. Copies of the Sign Ordinance are available for review at City Hall during regular business hours.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Monday, May 19, 2008 and should be addressed to Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP, City Planner, Economic Development Department, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: May 1, 2008

Eagles topple Crestwood

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Just when the Romulus Eagles varsity baseball team needed a win the most, they got it.

Instead of falling further behind in the race for the Mega Blue title, the Eagles put together one of their best performances of the season on Wednesday when they beat host Crestwood, 5-3.

With a combination of solid pitching, sturdy defense and good offense the Eagles pulled out the much needed win and improved to 2-3 in the league and 4-5 overall. Although their record isn't jaw-dropping and there really isn't any room for error, the Eagles have a legitimate chance to win the Blue.

Every team in the conference has at least one loss and if the Eagles can sweep the second half of division play and get some help along the way it is a possibility, according to Romulus Coach Tim Jager.

"Our bats have heated up and we're starting to hit better and we're getting on base anyway that we can," Jager said. "Defensively we're solid and we're coming along with pitching. It's an issue of handling things at the plate offensively."

Against Crestwood the team got things done in all areas.

Senior Steven Hicks earned the win from the mound, pitching five innings. He didn't throw out any stellar numbers but got the job done.

"The defense played well," Jager said. "Hicks wasn't overpowering batters, but the defense made a lot of plays."

Senior Chad Williams came in for the final two innings for the save.

Senior Carl Roscoe was 2-for-3 with an RBI and Hicks went 2-for-4 with two runs scored.

The win was a nice recovery from a string of three previous losses.

Romulus couldn't get into rhythm and fell to Melvindale, 10-3, last Monday.

Eagles had the game knotted, 2-2, going into the bottom of the sixth but Melvindale cut loose, scoring eight in the inning.

Hicks scored on senior Derrick Deaton's hit in the fourth and scored again in the sixth on sophomore Mike Statham's hit. Sophomore Jesse Norman had an RBI in the seventh.

Romulus also lost to Wyandotte, 10-0 and 15-2, in a double header last Saturday.

The Eagles are at Fordson at 4 p.m. on Friday and Dearborn at 4 p.m. on Tuesday.

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